Banning Genetically Modified Crops.

†*455. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports of adverse-effects of the crops developed through gene modification on human life have come to light;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that keeping in view the results of the above experiment, many countries of the world have banned them; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries and the decisions taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Globally, all crops developed through gene modification commonly referred to as GM crops or transgenic crops are tested extensively for their impact on the environment as well as on human and animal health through a rigorous regulatory mechanism before regarding they are approved for commercial cultivation. There have been no scientifically validated adverse reports/effects of the approved GM crops on human health.

(c) No report regarding banning of the GM crops in any Country on the ground of adverse-effects of the crops on human health have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Milk Production in rural areas

†*456.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk production can be made an import industry in rural areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.